
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 2 JULY 2012

EX.084/12 **CLEAN UP CARLISLE
(Non Key Decision)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor has agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy
Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder presented report LE.18/12 providing details of the broader approach adopted by the City Council to cleaning up Carlisle.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder said that she wished to take this opportunity to thank members of staff for the fantastic work undertaken following the visit of the Olympic Torch to Carlisle, which thousands of people had attended. She referred to critical articles which appeared in the Press, commenting that criticism should be directed to the perpetrators, rather than the City Council.

Turning to the report, she reminded Members that the budget proposed to Council on 7 February 2012 included £70,000 per annum for two years to fund a “Community Clean Up Team” and, following amendments at Council, additional funding for two years of £85,000 had been approved to address community cleaning issues, particularly dog fouling. In total that additional £155,000 for two years would improve the cleanliness of Carlisle, targeting dog fouling, littering and staining, and support the transition to a more programmed approach to the street cleansing operations.

The additional funding complimented improvements already identified during the review of the service last year. It was proposed to use that additional funding in a three strand approach of education, enforcement and improved clean up so that a sustained outcome would be achieved at the end of the two year period.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that an Education and Enforcement Officer had now been appointed, and a recruitment process was underway with regard to two other posts. She added that Magistrates had found in favour of the City Council on two occasions recently, and successful enforcement would be publicised to act as a deterrent to others.

She further outlined the proposals for spend, as detailed at paragraph 1.4 of the report, commenting that the spend would be split into capital and revenue spend, with £61,000 capital spend in 2012/13 and £14,000 capital spend in 2013/14.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder then moved the recommendations, which were seconded by the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder.

The Leader indicated that, having spoken to members of staff involved, he too was aware that they worked extremely hard and took great pride in their work. It was to their credit that the City Centre now looked much cleaner, and he asked that the Director of Local Environment convey the thanks of the Executive to the staff.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Noted the Action Plan set out at Appendix 2 to Report LE.18/12 and the proposals for budget allocation at Appendix 1.
2. Approved the bringing forward of £20,000 from year 2013/14 of the project to 2012/13 to achieve maximum benefit from the investment in additional street cleansing equipment, for recommendation to Council.
3. Noted the resultant increase to the Capital Programme in 2012/13 and 2013/14 of £61,000 and £14,000 respectively to be funded from the existing revenue budget.
4. Requested the Director of Local Environment to convey their thanks to members of staff involved in cleaning up Carlisle.

Reasons for Decision

The additional funding would enable improved cleaning of the local environment, but would also seek to change the behaviour of the minority of residents who spoil the local environment for everyone; and to promote more responsibility for keeping our communities clean and free of litter and dog fouling